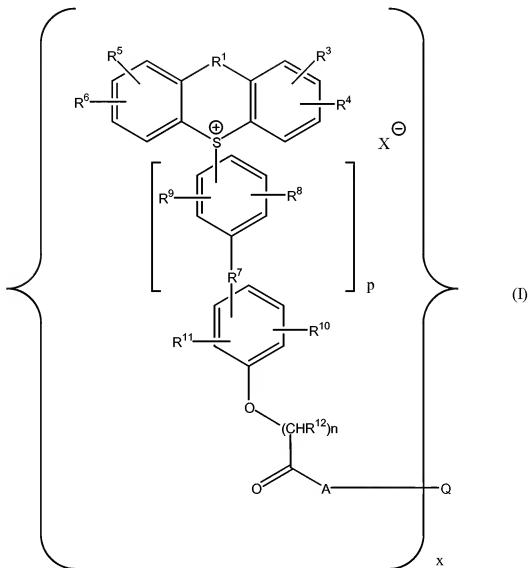


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Compounds of formula (I):



where:

~~R¹ represents a direct bond, an oxygen bond, a group >CH₂, a sulphur atom, or a group >C=O-a group -(CH₂)₂- or a group of formula -N-R^a, where R^a represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₁₂ alkyl group;~~

R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen atoms and substituents α , defined below;

R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from hydrogen atoms, hydroxy groups, C₁-C₄ alkyl groups, and phenyl groups which are unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄ alkyl groups and C₁-C₄ alkoxy groups;

or R⁹ and R¹¹ are joined to form a fused ring system with the benzene rings to which they are attached;

R⁷ represents a direct bond, an oxygen atom or a -CH₂- group;

p is 0 or 1;

said substituents α are: a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl group, a C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy group, a C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl group, a halogen atom, a nitrile atom, a hydroxyl group, a C₆-C₁₀ aryl group, a C₇-C₁₃ aralkyl group, a C₆-C₁₀ aryloxy group, a C₇-C₁₃ aralkyloxy group, a C₈-C₁₂ arylalkenyl group, a C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl group, a carboxy group, a C₂-C₇ carboxyalkoxy group, a C₂-C₇ alkoxycarbonyl group, a C₇-C₁₃ aryloxy carbonyl group, a C₂-C₇ alkylcarbonyloxy group, a C₁-C₆ alkanesulphonyl group, a C₆-C₁₀ arenesulphonyl group, a C₁-C₆ alkanoxyl group or a C₇-C₁₁ arylcarbonyl group;

n is a number from 1 to 12;

R^{12} represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or an ethyl group, and, when n is greater than 1, the groups or atoms represented by R^{12} may be the same as or different from each other;

A represents a group of formula $-[O(CHR^{13}CHR^{14})_a]_y-$, $-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_y-$, or $-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_{(y-1)}-[O(CHR^{13}CHR^{14})_a]-$, where:

one of R^{13} and R^{14} represents a hydrogen atom and the other represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or an ethyl group;

a is a number from 1 to 2;

b is a number from 4 to 5;

Q is a residue of a polyhydroxy compound having from 2 to 6 hydroxy groups;

x is a number greater than 1 but no greater than the number of available hydroxyl groups in Q ;

y is a number from 1 to 10; and

X^- represents an anion;

and esters thereof.

Claim 2. (Original) Compounds according to claim 1, in which x is a number greater than 1 but no greater than 2, and y is a number from 1 to 10; or in which x is a number greater than 2, and y is a number from 3 to 10.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which n is a number from 1 to 6.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which n is 1.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~, in which R¹² represents a hydrogen atom.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which n is a number from 2 to 6 and one group R¹² represents a hydrogen atom, or a methyl or ethyl group and the other or others R¹² represent hydrogen atoms.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, in which y is a number from 3 to 10.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, in which A represents a group of formula -[O(CHR¹³CHR¹⁴)_a]_y-, where a is an integer from 1 to 2, and y is a number from 3 to 10.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ in which A represents a group of formula -[OCH₂CH₂]_y-, -[OCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂]_y- or -[OCH(CH₃)CH₂]_y-, where y is a number from 3 to 10.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, in which A represents a group of formula -[O(CH₂)_bCO]_y-, where b is a number from 4 to 5 and y is a number from 3 to 10.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~, in which A represents a group of formula -[O(CH₂)_bCO]_(y-1)-[O(CHR¹³CHR¹⁴)_a]₁-, where a is a number from 1 to 2, b is a number from 4 to 5 and y is a number from 3 to 10.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which x is 2 and y is a number from 1 to 10.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which y is a number from 3 to 6.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the residue Q-(A)_x has a molecular weight no greater than 2000.

Claim 15. (Original) Compounds according to claim 14, in which the residue Q-(A)_x has a molecular weight no greater than 1200.

Claim 16. (Original) Compounds according to claim 15, in which the residue Q-(A)_x has a molecular weight no greater than 1000.

Claim 17. (Original) Compounds according to claim 16, in which the residue Q-(A)_x has a molecular weight no greater than 800.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which Q is a residue of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, glycerol, trimethylolpropane, di-trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol or di-pentaerythritol.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~, in which R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen atoms, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl groups, C₁-C₁₀ alkoxy groups, halogen atoms, and C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl groups.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~, in which three or four of R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ represents hydrogen atoms.

Claim 21. (Original) Compounds according to claim 19, in which one or more R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 represents an ethyl or isopropyl group.

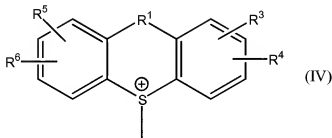
Claim 22. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~, in which two, three or four of R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} represents hydrogen atoms.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~, in which all of R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} represent hydrogen atoms.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~, in which R^1 represents a group $>C=O$, ~~a sulphur atom or a direct bond~~.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 24, in which R^1 represents a group $>C=O$.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~, in which that part of the compound of formula (I) having the formula (IV):



(in which R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are as defined in claim 1) is a residue of substituted or unsubstituted thianthrene, dibenzothiophene, thioxanthone, ~~thioxanthene~~, phenoxathiin, phenothiazine or N-alkylphenothiazine.

Claim 27. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 26, in which said residue is substituted or unsubstituted thioxanthone.

Claim 28. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 26, in which said residue is substituted or unsubstituted thianthrene.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 26, in which said residue is substituted or unsubstituted dibenzothiophene.

Claim 30. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 26, in which said residue is substituted or unsubstituted phenoxathiin.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn) Compounds according to claim 26, in which said residue is substituted or unsubstituted phenothiazine or N-alkylphenothiazine.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which:

R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are individually the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 atoms.;

R^7 is a direct bond;

R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} represent hydrogen atoms, ~~and especially such compounds where p is 0; and~~

A represents a group of formula $-\text{[OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{]}_n-$; and

Q represents a residue of butylene glycol.

Claim 33. (Original) Compounds according to claim 1, in which

R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are individually the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

R^7 represents a direct bond;

R^8 , R^9 , and R^{11} represent hydrogen atoms;

R^{10} represents a phenyl group;

p is 0;

A represents a group of formula $-[OCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2]_Y-$; and

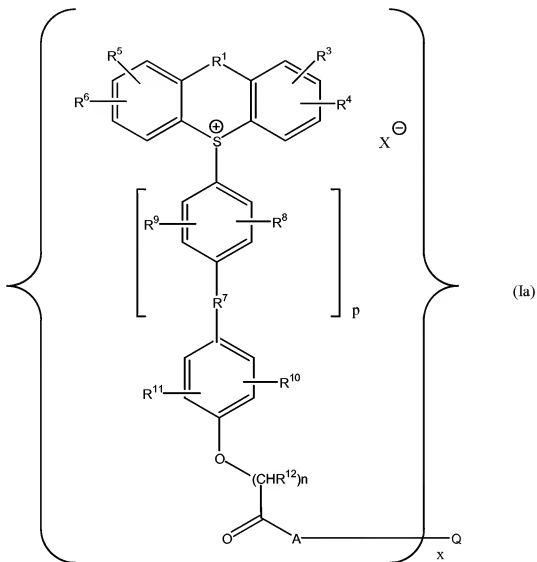
Q represents a residue of butylene glycol.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which X^- represents PF_6^- , SbF_6^- , AsF_6^- , BF_4^- , $B(C_6F_5)_4^-$, $R^aB(Ph)_3^-$ (where R^a represents a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group and Ph represents a phenyl group), $R^bSO_3^-$ (where R^b represents a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or haloalkyl group or an aryl group), ClO_4^- , or $ArSO_3^-$ (where Ar represents an aryl group) group.

Claim 35. (Original) Compounds according to claim 33, in which X^- represents PF_6^- , SbF_6^- , AsF_6^- , $CF_3SO_3^-$ or BF_4^- group.

Claim 36. (Original) Compounds according to claim 34, in which X^- represents a PF_6^- group.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) Compounds according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, having the formula (Ia):



in which $R^1, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, p, x, n, A, Y$ and X^- are as defined in claim 1.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) An energy-curable composition comprising (a) a polymerizable monomer, prepolymer or oligomer; and (b) a photoinitiator which is a compound of formula (I), as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1 to 37~~.

Claim 39. (Original) A process for preparing a cured polymeric composition by exposing a composition according to claim 38 to curing energy.

Claim 40. (Original) A process according to claim 39, in which the curing energy is ultraviolet radiation.